1: Jenness--221-222 (1913-16) 1922 Copper Eskimo
116, 526

"We come now to the more athletic games and pastimes, practiced on stormy winter days in the dance-house, or, is some cases, during sled migrations. Often a stick would be pushed into the side of a sled so that it projected horizontally about three feet above the ground, and one after another the men and women would jump up and kick it with the toes of both feet simultaneously. Novices often fall on their backs in this game, a castatrophe that invariably provokes much laughter.

Skipping is a pastime enjoyed by both sexes, mainly of course by the young, although I have seen adult men skipping during a migration when the train had stopped to rest; in such cases it serves the double purpose of amusing them and of keeping them warm. The Eskimos skip rather differently from us. The rope, which is usually a dog-trace, is swung by two players under the feet of the skipper, then back in the opposite direction, now in the other, while the skipper hops alternately on each foot. Occasionally he may try to circle round, but usually the rope catches in his feet after the first or second turn. The rope being of raw hide, and very hard, the natives often tie a strip of polar bear skin round the middle to keep it from bruising the ankles.

Wrestling is practiced by the men only as a rule, though children often push and shove each other about in an attempt to imitate their elders. The game usually takes place in the dance-house, especially after a successful seal-hunt, when the people are

rejoicing over their good fortune, or in stormy weather, [222] when the hunters are confined to their huts. Thus one stormy day in the winter of 1915, after the natives had been dancing for some time in the dance-house, Uloksak suggested a wrestling match. Some one called out 'Hold a seance', and immediately everyone began to talk about the ill-luck they had been experiencing owing to the constant storms. Uloksak, however, laid aside the drum he had just been using, and began the tournament by throwing his arms around one of the men and dragging him into the ring. Tripping with the feet is not allowed in these contests; each man grasps his opponent around the neck with one arm, and around the waist with the other, and tries by sheer strength to throw him off his feet. A short man is therefore at a great disadvantage, although he may be quite as strong and active as his opponent.

In the dance-house too the natives often practice some simple acrobatic feats. A stout line of bearded seal-skin is passed through two holes in the roof and clamped with two strong wooden poles.(1)Hanging by his hands the native circles round till his toes are almost touching the rope; then he swings violently back in a half-circle and comes to an upright position, his body balanced against the rope with the weight resting on the

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"1. Cf. Amundsen, Vol. II, pp. 17-18."

hands. From this position he swings round again in a half-circle, throws his legs violently out and swings back again. The exercise is continued until the performer becomes tired or fails to maintain his balance. Very few of the natives, however, could accomplish the feat at all. The women never attempted it, though they sometimes joined in a simpler exercise in which two small loops were made in the rope about a foot apart. Hanging by these the performer circled round and placed a foot in each loop, then released his hands, and hung at full length downwards with his head almost touching the floor. From this position he had to draw himself up again, grasp the loop with his hands, release his feet and drop to the floor.

Foot-ball, or hand-ball, for the ball is both kicked along the ground and thrown from hand to hand, is played occasionally by the natives of Bathurst inlet, who learned it, Ilatsiak said, from the Netsilik Eskimos. The ball, ekitak, is made of hairless deer-skin like the membrane of the drum, but no information was obtained on how the game itself is played."

7: Jenness--B45 (1914-16) 1923 Copper Eskimo
116, 821, 516, 526

"When the feet are cold the Eskimos kick themone against another, standing alternately on each foot, or else they jump into the air and kick them together."

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
ND8 Copper Eskimo ND8

rate of progress, because this sustained effort involved a mental strain to which they were totally unaccustomed. We had travelled long and far for three days, and they needed an interval to recuperate. During those three days, too, they had suffered from hunger, for we had killed no game; and now they gorged themselves so freely that involuntarily I thought of Icehouse's reproach to the dogs, "They have no bottoms to their stomachs." The human body is remarkably plastic; through generation after generation these Eskimos had developed something of the nature of the camel, being capable of taking in a few hours sufficient nourishment to compensate for one period of scarcity and to carry them over another.

During these days of idleness they indulged in various pastimes. They set up a clod of turf about a foot square, and, standing back forty paces, shot at it with their bows. Only about one arrow in twenty hit the target, so that either their marksmanship was poor or their bows very inferior. Since they had all practised archery from childhood, and two of the men, Ikpuck and The Runner, were noted hunters, the fault evidently lay in their bows. These belonged to the type technically known as "composite," like the well-known Tartar bows. The framework was of three pieces of wood rudely jointed together, two end pieces or horns curving backward and a middle piece. All the back of the wood was covered with a narrow band